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I certify that this paper or fee was mailed with sufficient postage via first class mail on the 16th day of January, 2004 to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450; Name Printed : Carrie Stremming; Signature Carrie Stremming

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

RE THE APPLICATION OF:

Cotton et al.

Grp. Art. Unit: 2834

Application No: 09/783,367

Examiner: Medley, P.

Filing Date: February 14, 2001

Date: January 16, 2004

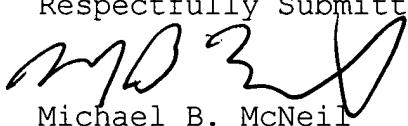
APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR
ADJUSTING THE PRE-LOAD OF
A SPRING

Atty. Dkt. No: 99-617

RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF NON-COMPLIANT AMENDMENT

In response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment dated January 7, 2004, please substitute the attached List of Claims for the List of Claims included with the previously filed office action response document that was considered non-compliant.

Respectfully Submitted,



Michael B. McNeil
Reg. No. 35,949